category respectively in Punjab and Sind Bank;

(b) whether the said Bank promoted some officers in MMG II under its normal channel promotion policy;

(c) if so, how many officers have been promoted;

(d) how many SC/ST officers were eligible for promotion to MMG Scale II as per normal channel promotion policy;

(e) whether reservation has been provided to SC/ST officers in normal channel; and

(f) if so, how many SC/ST officers have been promoted in normal channel, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that the strength of its officers in Middle Management Grade Scale-II, as on 31st March, 1994, was 1161 comprising of 1159 officers of general category and 2 belonging to the SC category. During the year, 1994 (upto 9.8.1994) the bank promoted under its normal promotion policy 87 officers from JMGS-I to MMGS-II which included 1 SC officer. However as a one time measure, it effected 67 further promotions from JMGS-I to MMGS-II on seniority-cum-fitness basis to benefit officers who have in JMGS-I prior to 31.12.1976. In these 67 promotions reservations as per rules have been provided and 10 SC and 5 ST officers were promoted.

(e) and (f) According to the bank, generally, inter-scale promotions in its officers' cadre are effected by selection method and as such in terms of the provisions contained in the Brochure on Reservations for SCs/STs in Services (7th Edition) reservations for SCs/STs do not apply to these promotions. However concessions contained in para 9.2(a) of the Brochure, ibid, are applicable to such promotions upto MMGS-III. Accordingly, 1 SC officer of the bank was promoted to MMGS-II during the year in terms of the normal promotion policy of the bank based on selection method.

Non Implementation of the Recommendations regarding Tax on Consignments

2751. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the unanimous recommendations made in May, 1984 at a Conference of Chief Minister, presided over by the then Union Finance Minister, approving the proposal to introduce a tax on consignment;

(b) the reasons for not implementing these unanimous recommendations;

(c) the aggregate loss of revenue over the last decade because of the non-implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Conference of Chief Ministers held in May, 1984, recommended that the consignment tax should be levied at the same rate as Central Sales Tax, the machinery for assessment could be the same as the one existing in respect of Central Sales Tax, valuation of consignment transfers should be on the pattern adopted in respect of levy of Central Excise Duty, the power of exemption will be exercised both by the Centre and the States and 50% of the collection will be retained in the State of origin and the balance 50% will be credited to the divisible pool to be distributed among the States by the Planning Commission.

(b) In view of the considerable divergence of views regarding the rate of consignment tax, share of proceeds and issues relating to concurrent exemptions, it has not been possible to operationalise the consensus reached with regard to levy of consignment tax.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, question does not arise.

Irregularities in NRI Accounts

2752. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the irregularities in the operation of the foreign currency (Non-resident) Accounts operated by banks that have come to light impelling the Reserve Bank of India to order a special audit;

(b) the period over which such irregularities have been committed and the total loss of foreign exchange to the country as a result; and

(c) the number and names of foreign banks involved in the irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) A special audit has been instituted by the Reserve Bank of India to reconcile the books of the Reserve Bank of India and the authorised dealers handling foreign currency non-resident accounts transactions in order to locate any discrepancies in interest claims and purchases made by the authorised dealers from the Reserve Bank of India with reference to the exchange rate at which the principal deposit was sold to the Reserve Bank of India. The auditors have been advised to cover a period of four years from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1994. The special audit is not complete and a definitive view on irregularities cannot be taken at this stage.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

2753. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce further liberalisation of imports in view of rising foreign exchange reserves; and

(b) if so, the details of new liberalisation methods proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Foreign currency assets of the Reserve Bank of India have risen from $ 15.1 billion at the end of March 1994 to $ 17.5 billion at the end of July 1994. A number of measures are being taken to moderate the inflationary impact of rising foreign exchange reserves. The Government is constently monitoring the situation and suitable measures will be taken as and when required.

लघु उद्योगों को ऋण

2754. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:**
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों और वित्तीय संस्थाओं द्वारा लघु उद्योगों को ऋण मंजूर करने के लिए कोई दिशा-निर्देश निर्धारित किए गए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इन बैंकों और संस्थाओं को लघु उद्योगों/उद्यमियों से ऋण के लिए कितने आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं और गत दो वर्षों में प्रत्येक वर्ष के दौरान राज्यवार कितना ऋण मंजूर किया गया;

(घ) क्या ऋण मंजूर करने में विलम्ब के कारण अनेकों उद्योग रुग्ण हो गये हैं;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(च) इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति): (क) और (ख) अक्तूबर, 1993 में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा घोषित की गई ऋण नीति के अनुसार संयंत्र और मशीनरी में 60 लाख रुपए तक (अनुषंगी इकाइयों और निर्यातोन्मुख इकाइयों के मामले में 75 लाख रुपए) के निवेश वाले लघु क्षेत्र के उद्योगों को दिए जाने वाले अग्रिमों को प्राथमिकता प्राप्त क्षेत्र के अग्रिमों के रूप में माना जाता है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने बैंकों से कहा है कि वे ग्रामोद्योगों, अति लघु उद्योगों और लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र की दूसरी इकाइयों को उस क्रम में वरीयता दें। बैंकिंग प्रणाली से कुल एक करोड़ रुपए तक की निधि आधारित कार्यशील पूंजी सीमा वाले ग्रामोद्योगों, अति लघु उद्योगों और लघु उद्योग क्षेत्र की दूसरी